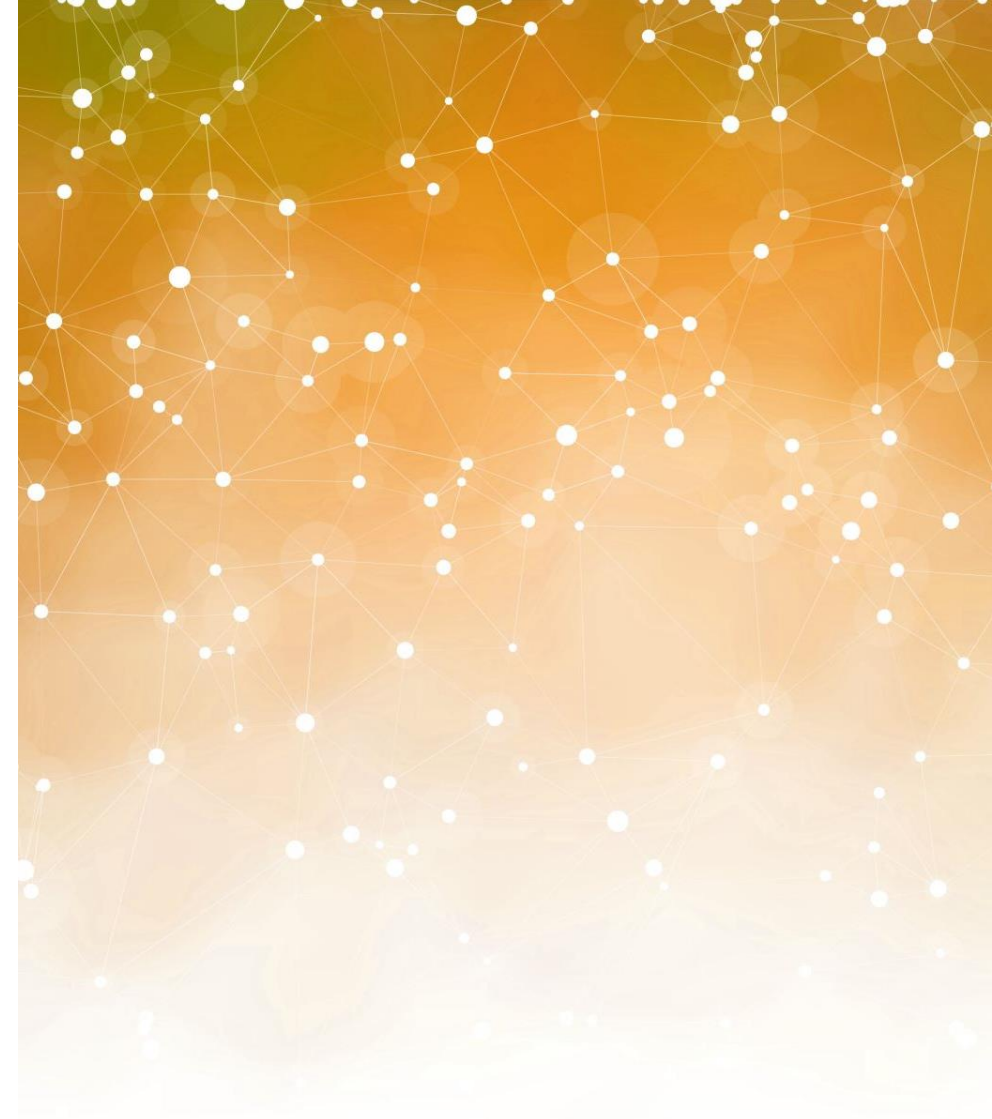




Really? It's
More
Blessed to
Give Than
to Receive?

Ps. 24:1—“The earth is the Lord’s,
and everything in it.”

1 Co. 4:7—“What do you have that
you did not receive?”

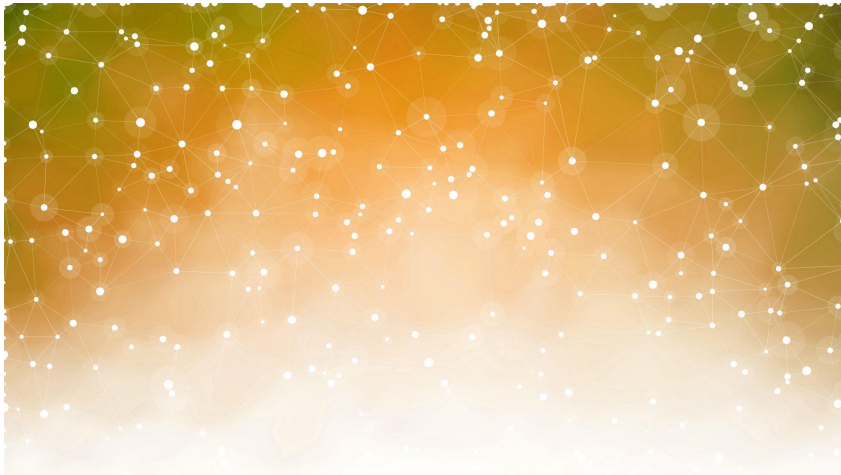


Giving aligns us with two foundational laws of God's kingdom--

Law of Reciprocity/Sowing and Reaping

“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.” Matt. 5:7

“For judgment will be without mercy for the one who has shown no mercy.”
James 2:13





“Give, and it will be given to you. They will put into your lap a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you in return.” Luke 6:38

Gal. 6:7--“You will reap whatever you sow.”

Sow first, then reap!

Law of Increase (and Decrease)--When we wisely use (sow) what we have been given, we receive back more than we originally had (sowed).

Matt. 25: 29—“To everyone who has (and sows it), more will be given; and that person will have an abundance; but from the one who does not have (does not sow what has been given), even what he does have shall be taken away.”

30-60-100-fold increase (or decrease?) potential! $30X = 30$ -fold

Prov. 11:24—“One person is generous and yet grows more wealthy; ; but another withholds more than he should and loses everything.” – “should” – tithe?



Four Ways of Giving

1) Giving Tithes/Offerings;

2) Proportional Giving; 3) Extravagant Giving; 4)
Random Acts of Giving

**1st Form of Giving: Tithing (give firstfruits,
10% of “income” (what comes in—either gross or
net))**



Basis in Scripture -- debated

Pre-Mosaic Law--400 years before the Law of Moses

Abraham tithed to Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of God Most High--Gen. 14:20—"He gave him a tenth of all."

Jacob tithed—Gen. 28:22—"Of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to you." – tithing (10% giving) is common-grace-motivated "good deed" with reward built into the creation



In Mosaic Law--part of the religious/ceremonial Law of Judaism—

Lev. 27:30- “the tithe is the Lord’s”

Malachi 3:10-11 (specific benefits of giving tithes/offerings:

- 1) open windows of heaven—overflowing blessings
- 2) rebuke the devourer—freedom from the curse of disobeying God’s created law

Gal.3:13—“Jesus has redeemed us from the curse of the law” but not from all curses

Prov. 3:9-10—“Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of your crops; then your barns will be overflowing, and your vats will brim over.” – More than enoughness!



In the NT--no 10% requirement specifically stated

Luke 11:42 references to the tithe there show that the Jesus *did not rescind the tithe*

Hebrews 10:1-2—tithe to Melchizedek (type) mentioned positively—analogy to giving to Christ (antitype)

Evidence the early church gave generously: at least *tithing plus*

NT *The Didache—The Teaching of the Apostolic Fathers* (probably the 2nd century) -the oldest surviving manual of Christian church order

Irenaeus—(2nd century)

John Chrysostum (Chrisostum) (4th century)



The Upside of Tithing

The Downside of Tithing

Three NT principles governing giving (offerings—context) to the Lord

2 Co. 9:6-7: generosity, and joyfulness;

1 Co. 16:1-2: regularity

First fruits principle—give to God first, before using money for other purposes

Where to give tithe—“storehouse”

Tithing Plus Wisdom Mixed with Faith – Blessings from God



Tithing Testimonies:

--Billy Graham: “We have found in our own home...that God’s blessing on the nine-tenths, when we tithe, helps it to go farther than ten-tenths without His blessing.”

--John D. Rockefeller—“I never would have been able to tithe the first million dollars I ever made if I had not tithed my first salary, which was \$1.50 per week.”

My Personal Conclusion: 10% -- entry-level giving; the blessed minimum that has never been rescinded or adjusted by God through further revelation



2nd Form of Giving--Proportionate Giving

Give to God a regular portion of your income to God, with the goal of getting to 10% **1-5-8-10-12-15 %** etc.

2 Co. 8:12—“It is acceptable according to what you have, not what you do not have...” —

1 Co. 16:1-2—“Now concerning the collection for the saints...on the first day of the week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come.”



Downside of proportionate giving—tithing is the “blessed minimum” that promises God’s “open the windows of heaven” blessing; giving offerings regularly is good, but tithes come first, then offerings —

Upside of proportionate giving — you may eventually end up giving more (sometimes way more) than the minimum of 10 % -- “as God has prospered you;”

My understanding and recommendation:



3rd Form of Giving-- Extravagant Giving—The (extremely) rich young ruler

Luke 18:22—“One thing you still lack; sell all that you possess and distribute it to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven”

this is the **“gift of liberality/giving”** in action



4th Form of Giving-- Random Acts of Giving

keep money/stuff with you at all times
look for occasions to give to those in obvious need or
to those the Spirit points out to you – suggested
context—to the righteous poor and needy, in church
to church family, at job, while on vacation

actively look for opportunities to bless others with a
financial gift

be sensitive to the prompting of the Spirit!

You can't outgive God!

